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THE
GAZETTE SERIES.

EDITED BY

HENRY B. DAWSON.

VOL. II.



YONKERS, N. Y.

1866.

TWENTY-SIX COPIES PRINTED,
FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY.

No. 23-

Henry B. Dawg

TO
JAMES C. BELL, ESQ.,

President of the Village of Yonkers, N. Y.,

AS A MEMENTO OF FRIENDLY REGARD,

This slight contribution to the history of that ancient
village

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED BY

THE EDITOR.

Morrisania, N. Y., 1866.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following pages have been made up from a series of articles on the subject, which have appeared from time to time, in the columns of THE GAZETTE, a weekly newspaper published at Yonkers, Westchester County, N. Y., under my editorial management.

The articles were not published, originally, with any pretensions of unusual merit or importance; nor are they now re-issued with a hope or expectation that they will invite criticism or provoke controversy. They were written and published, originally, for the amusement and instruction of the readers of THE GAZETTE: for the gratification of a few indulgent friends, a small number of copies have been re-produced in this more permanent form.

HENRY B. DAWSON.

Morrisania, N. Y., 1866.

P A P E R S
CONCERNING THE
TOWN AND VILLAGE
OF
Y O N K E R S ,
WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

A F R A G M E N T .

B Y H E N R Y B . D A W S O N .



Y O N K E R S , N . Y .

1866.

YONKERS.

I.

INTRODUCTORY.

We propose to devote a portion of our space, from time to time, to the publication of some materials for a history of this ancient village and of the town of which it forms a part, with a hope that some one of our townsmen, who possesses leisure and inclination to pursue the investigation, may be induced to make additions thereto, and embody them in a volume befitting the subject.

It is not our purpose, however, to write even a skeleton *History of Yonkers*:—we aspire only to the privilege of throwing before our readers, from time to time, without regard to chronological order or historical arrangement, such items concerning the civil history of this town and village, the lives and characters of those who have lived here, and other kindred subjects, as we shall consider interesting and useful to him who shall hereafter honor himself, by preparing a full and reliable History of this ancient seat of manorial authority in America.

Nor is it our purpose to occupy a space in each succeeding issue of THE GAZETTE with this subject. We shall write the articles only when "the Spirit moveth us" to do so; and "the Spirit" to which we refer will probably be influenced as much by the interest which shall be manifested in those articles, by the great body of our readers, as from any other cause—like our neighbor of *The Statesman*, who commenced a similar series, in December, 1863, we shall exercise the privilege of discontinuing the publication whenever we shall find a sufficient reason to do so.

It is proper to remark, also, that the articles referred to, will not only be "founded on fact," but, in every case, they will be written with care, and with such authorities before us as will satisfy the most fastidious, of the entire correctness of every statement which they shall contain. The authorities which we do not possess in our own private library will be obtained elsewhere; and that which has no competent evidence to sustain it, will find no place in our columns, except as a report for the truth of which we shall not hold ourselves accountable.

II.

THE ABORIGINAL INHABITANTS.

There has been some conflict in the statements of authors concerning the nations or tribes to

which the aboriginal inhabitants of this town and vicinity belonged.

Mr. Moulton, following Heckewelder and other earlier writers, in one part of his work appears to have supposed that the residents of this portion of Westchester county were Mohegans (*History of the State of New York*, i, 226)—the Manhikani and Mahikans of De Laet, (*Edit. Leyden*, 1625, 88); the Mahiccanders of Joost Hartger, (*quoted by Moulton*, 226); the Mahicanni of Barton, (*New Views*, xxxi, xxxii) the Mahikanders of Benson, (*Memoir, Edit.* 1825, 19.)

Heckewelder appears to have formed his opinion from the narrative of an aged and intelligent Mohegan, whose grandfather had been a noted chief of that nation—"When I was a boy, my grandfather used to speak much of old times: how it had been before the white people came into this country, and what changes took place since, from time to time. The western boundary line of the Mahicanni was the river *Mahicannituck*, which the white people now call *North River*. Our towns and settlements extended on the east side of this river from Thuphane or Tuphane, (a Delaware word for *cold stream*, from which the whites have derived the name Tappan,) to the extent of tide-water up this river; here was the uppermost town."

This statement, it is said, corresponds with other relations, made by aged Delawares; and on a misunderstanding of this simple narrative, it has been often assumed that the inhabitants of

that part of Westchester county which is embraced in the town of Yonkers and its vicinity, were Mohegans. There is little doubt, however, that this is an error ; and we consider that Mr. Bolton, in his chapter on the "Aborigines" of this county, was entirely correct in assigning this portion of the valley of the Hudson to the Manhattans. (*History*, i, ix.)

The aged Delaware referred to by Heckewelder, stated that the southern limit of the Mohegan territory was Thuphane—or *Tappan* ; and Doctor Barton (*MS. in N. Y. Hist. Society*) has concurred in that statement—"The Mahiccans "occupied," he says, "the east side of the Hudson, from a site opposite to Albany, down to the "*Tappan sea*," (which is some distance north from this town.) Mr. Moulton, also, considered that "the fierce Manhattæ occupied Staten and "Manhattan Islands, and as far, *perhaps*, on the "east shore of the river as *Tappan Bay*." (*History*, i, 231.)

There is other testimony, however, which in our mind, is much more conclusive than that which has been before referred to.

De Laet, speaking of "the Great North River "of the New Netherlands," says : "On the east "side, *upon the main land, dwell the Manhattans*, "a bad race of savages, who have always been "obstinate and unfriendly towards our country-men." *Nieuwe Wereldt*, Edit. N. Y. Hist. Soc. 297.) The same may be inferred, in a subsequent statement, in the same volume. (*Ibid*, 308.)

Adriaen Van der Donck, the first Patroon of Yonkers—certainly no mean authority on this subject—after stating that “the nations, tribes and languages are as different in America as they are in Europe,” says, “*With the Manhattans, we include those who live in the neighboring places along the North River, on Long Island, and at the Neversink.*” (*Description of New Netherlands*, 1656, Edit. N. Y. Hist. Soc., 205, 206.)

From these authorities, we have been led to suppose that the inhabitants of this town and vicinity, at the period of the first visit to the country by the whites, were really MANHATTANS, a branch of the Munseys, (*Moulton*, i, 224, 225,) and not Mohegans, who were, more directly, members of the Lenno-Lenapi Algonquin family. (*Schoolcraft's History of the Indians*, vi, 100.)

III.

THE DISCOVERY.

The year 1609 was productive of great events in the history of the New World; and a passing allusion to one of the principal of these events, appears to be proper in this place.

On the fourth of April, Henry Hudson took his departure from Amsterdam; and on the sixth, he sailed from the Texel, in the *Vlie-boat* or “*Yaght Halve Maan* of forty lasts burden,”—

the fly-boat *Half Moon*, of eighty tons. (*Ship-book of the Old East India Company at Amsterdam.*)

Early in July, he arrived off the Banks of Newfoundland ; on the second of September he descried the Highlands of Navesinck ; on the sixth, he sent a boat through the Narrows, into the harbor of New York ; and on the eleventh, he carried the *Half-Moon* through the Narrows, into the same noble bay.

On the thirteenth, Hudson entered the great river which bears his name ; and after drifting slowly with the flood tide, four miles, he anchored. In the afternoon, he proceeded some eight miles further, and anchored for the night, with a high point of land in sight, " bearing North by " East five leagues off vs."

It has been supposed by some, that the anchorage-ground of the *Half-Moon*, on the evening of the thirteenth of September, was just above Yonkers ; and we find among them, Mr. Brodhead, the most recent historian of the Colony. (*History of the State of New York*, i, 28.)

We see no reason, however, to concur in this opinion ; on the contrary, we think that if Mr. Brodhead had kept in view the whole of the sentence in Hudson's narrative, of which he quoted only a portion, he would not have thus committed himself.

Hudson had sailed, as he supposed, only about seventeen miles above the Narrows, when he

discovered, "bearing North by East, five leagues off vs," as he stated in his Journal, (*Ed. N. Y. Hist. Soc.*, 1811, 29,) "a high point of land."

Mr. Brodhead supposed, as we have said, that the *Half-Moon* anchored, on the evening in question, "just above Yonkers;" and he considered that the "high point of land," in question was Verdrietig Hook, just north of Nyack. (*History*, i, 29, Note.) Inasmuch, however, as Verdrietig Hook is not North *by East* from "just above Yonkers," but North *by West*, and for the further reason that Verdrietig Hook is *not visible from that anchorage-ground*—Gutters' Point intervening—to say nothing of the distance sailed from the Narrows, we, on the contrary, consider that Hudson had not reached the point designated by Mr. Brodhead, on the thirteenth of September; and that he was, in fact, at that time, not far from Manhattanville, with either Fort Washington Point or Gutter's Point, just below Sneden's Landing, bearing North by East ahead of him.

If we are correct, therefore, Yonkers is not entitled to a place in the early history of the Colony because of a temporary stay within her borders, of Hudson and the *Half-Moon*.

I V.

THE PURCHASE.

In our last article on this subject we very briefly alluded to the circumstances attending the first visit of Europeans to the valley of the Hudson ; and we ventured to express a doubt of the correctness of the popular theory that Henry Hudson spent a night on the waters of this town.

During the succeeding thirty years, the aboriginal inhabitants of Yonkers appear to have enjoyed an undisturbed occupation of their possessions ; and the annalist finds nothing worthy of his notice, to add to the brief narrative which he has already written.

In the summer of 1639, however, the West India Company appears to have moved for the purpose of extinguishing the Indian title to this portion of the mainland ; and, on the third of August, of that year, a conveyance of the territory in question, to the General Incorporated West India Company, was secured. The instrument, in writing, by which that conveyance was made, was duly executed, and recorded in the colonial *Book of Records* GG, folio 31, now in the office of the Secretary of State, at Albany ; and we are indebted to our friend, E. B. O'Callaghan, LL.D., the learned

historian of New Netherland, for the following carefully-prepared translation of that interesting paper—now presented complete, it is believed, the first time to the historical world :

INDIAN DEED FOR THE TOWN OF YONKERS.

This day, date underwritten, before me Cornelis van Tienhoven, Secretary in New Netherland, appeared Tequemick, Rechgawac, Pachamiens, proprietors of Kekeskick, who, in the presence of the underwritten witnesses, voluntarily and deliberately declare that, in and for certain parcels of goods which they acknowledge to have received to their satisfaction before the execution hereof, they have ceded, conveyed, and transported as they do hereby transport, cede, and convey in a true, right, and free propriety, to and for the behoof of the General Incorporated West India Company, a piece of land called Keskeskick, situated opposite the Flatt of the Island of Manhate, stretching in the length along the Kill which runs in the rear around the Island Manhate almost east and west, beginning at the beginning of the above named Kill, to right over against the high hill of the flatland, to wit, by the Great Kill. And that with all the action, right and title thereunto to them belonging in the quality aforesaid, constituting the Directors of the Incorporated West India Company in their stead in the real and actual possession thereof and giving them and their assigns full and irrevocable power, authority, and special commission the above described land and the dependencies thereof to enter upon, peaceably to occupy and to use, as they might do with other their lawfully acquired land, without they, the grantors, any longer reserving or retaining therein any the least part or control, but from henceforth forever therefrom desisting, hereby releasing the

aforesaid tract of land from all claim and incumbrance to be set up by any one against it ; all in good faith without fraud or deceit. In testimony and token of the truth, these presents are Subscribed by the witnesses herein to invited. Done 3d August, Ao. 1639, in Fort Amsterdam, in New Netherland.

CORNELIS VAN DER HOYKENS,
DAVID PIETERSEN DE VRIES,
Witnesses.

To my knowledge,
CORNELIS VAN TIENHOVEN, Secretary.

In the above curious document, our readers have what is believed to have been the first deed of conveyance to the whites, of the territory now included in the Township of Yonkers ; and from and after the date of it, [“ 3d August, Ao. 1639,”] it was held, as it is held to this day, “ to “ and for the behoof of the General Incorporated “ West India Company,” and its successors and assigns.

V.

We have noticed, in former numbers of THE GAZETTE, the discovery of the territory occupied by this town and the transfer of the title thereto, by the aboriginal proprietors, to the West India Company ; and we approach the consideration

of the more important portion of its history—that relating to its colonization.

Preparatory to that enquiry, however, we beg to introduce to the notice of our readers, one who was deeply interested in this vicinity in the earlier periods of its history—we refer to ADRIAEN VAN DER DONCK, its first Patroon.

This gentleman, as he himself stated, was a lineal descendant of Adriaen van Bergen, part owner of the famous turf boat, in which a party of Dutch troops was clandestinely introduced, in the year 1599, into the castle of that city, whereby that stronghold of Spanish tyranny was reduced. (*O'Callaghan, Introd. to Remonst. of N. Netherland, i.*)

He was a native of Breda, and a graduate of the University of Leyden; and after a course of legal study, in the fall of 1641, he emigrated to New Netherland, bringing with him, or receiving soon after, a commission as Schout-fiscaal, or Sheriff, of Rensselaerswyck, in the place of Schout Planck, and a lease, from the Patroon, of the western half of Castle Island.

Within a short time after his arrival at Beverswyck, he appears to have fallen into a serious dispute, with van Curler and other officers of the Colony, concerning trade with the Indians; and van der Donck determined to resign his commission as Schout-fiscaal, and return to Holland for the purpose of obtaining author-

ity to establish a colony for himself, in the vicinity of Catskill—a purpose which was frustrated only by the resolute opposition of the Patroon, van Rensselaer.

In the preparation and conclusion of the important Treaties with the Indian tribes, which was perfected by Director Kieft, in 1645, van der Donck rendered essential service ; and the wampum which was presented to the savages on that occasion, in confirmation of those Treaties, was advanced by him, in the then straightened condition of the Colony.

In consideration of these services, and in return for the advances of wampum to which we have referred, the tract of land called NEPPERHAEM, now known as *Yonkers*, was granted to him, during the same year (1645) by the Director and Council of New Netherland ; and he appears to have taken measures, very soon thereafter, to establish a Colony within the Territory which was thus granted.

The property thus granted, is described in the Patent by which the grant was subsequently confirmed, and by Dr. E. B. O'Callaghan—from the last of which authorities the greater portion of this article has been derived—“as bounded “on the North by the Saw-Kill, which the “Indians called Maccakassin, and ran South to “Nepperhaem, thence to the Shorakapcock-Kill “and to Papirinimen Creek, called by the Dutch “‘Spuyten Duyvel,’ whence it stretched east-

"ward to the river Bronx"—embracing all the territory of the present town of Yonkers, together with a portion of that of the present town of West Farms, and, possibly, some of that of the present town of Morrisania.

Van der Donck appears to have cleared the title to this territory from every conceivable incumbrance, not only by the grant from the Colonial authorities (to whom the Indian proprietors had previously conveyed it, by the Deed which was copied into our last article on this subject,) but by a second conveyance by the former Indian proprietors, directly to himself; (*Recital in the Patent of 8th October, 1666,*) and he gave to his possession the name of "Colen Donck"—Donck's Colony—after his own name.

On the twenty-second of October, 1645, van der Donck was married in the Reformed Dutch church in New Amsterdam, to Maria, daughter of Rev. Francis Doughty of Maspeth, L. I.; and very soon after, (January 17, 1646), his residence, on Castle Island, was destroyed by fire; after which, with his wife, he enjoyed the hospitalities of van Curler's house until what seems to have been his quarrelsome disposition led to a renewal of their ill-feeling, when, on the 19th of February, 1646, his magnanimous host ordered him to leave the premises, obliging him to repair to Fort Orange, where he remained through the winter.

In the spring of 1646, he removed to the Man-

hattans; but his subsequent residence in that place does not appear to have been much more peaceful than that in Rensselaerswyck had been ; and van der Donck evidently led a life of turmoil and dissension—whether from his own fault or from some other cause is not entirely evident.

During the same year, on the death of Patroon van Rensselaer, his official connection with the colony of Rensselaerswyck terminated, Nicolaus Coorn succeeding him, as Schout-fiscaal.

He was one of those who, in 1649, protested against the arbitrary conduct of Director Stuyvesant against Melyn, the Patroon of Staten Island. As one of the Nine Men, in the same year, he was selected to prepare a remonstrance on the various grievances under which the Colonists suffered from the arbitrary measures of Director Stuyvesant; by the latter, he was arrested and thrown into prison ; and, subsequently, deposed from his public offices.

Shortly afterward, van der Donck proceeded to Europe to lay his complaints and those of the opposition, before the States-General, where he was confronted by Cornelis Van Tienhoven and other friends of the Director and of the Company. The contest was exceedingly spirited, and continued through several years, but it resulted in a great improvement in the condition of the Colonists.

Before his return to America, he was admitted an Advocate in the Supreme Court of Holland ;

received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Leyden ; and prepared for the press his well-known volume, entitled "*A Description of New Netherland, (as the same is at the present time,)*" &c., which was published in 1655.

He returned to New Netherland in the fall of 1653 ; and, two years afterward, he died, leaving his Colony of Donck, or Yonkers, to his wife, who subsequently married Hugh O'Neal, Esq., of Maryland ; and to them, on the eighth of October, 1666, the Colony was Patented by Governor Nicolls, as will be seen hereafter.

VI.

In our last, we noticed the Life and Services of Adriaen van der Donck, the first Patroon of Yonkers ; and, in the course of that article, we incidentally alluded to the colonization of this township and its vicinity.

While van der Donck was yet holding the office of Schout-fiscaal of Rensselaerswyck, in the year 1645, Director Kieft and the Council of New Netherland granted unto him the territories referred to in our last, including that of this town, with a portion of that of West Farms and

probably of that of Morrisania. (*Petition of van der Donck*, May 26, 1653.)

This was done principally because of services which he had rendered to the Colony in the preparation and conclusion of a Treaty with the Indians, in the spring of 1645, and for advances of wampum which he had made for the necessary presents to confirm the terms of that Treaty ; (*Ibid.*) and in the beginning of the following year (1646,) while he was yet in Rensselaerswyck, van der Donck "settled down there" by erecting a saw-mill, and beginning to establish a bowerie, or plantation, in that place. (*Ibid.*)

Soon after this grant was made, and probably before he "settled down there," van der Donck purchased from the former Indian proprietors of the territory thus granted, or those who claimed to be such, all their rights thereto, whether real or imaginary ; and the purchase thus made, was witnessed by the Director and Council of New Netherland, (*Ibid.*) unto whom the same or other assumed proprietors had already conveyed the fee of the same territory, by deed dated August 3rd, 1639, and reproduced in a former article on this subject. (*Number IV. THE GAZETTE*, June 24th, *ante.*)

The territory thus twice sold by the Indians, and formally granted by the Director and Council of New Netherland, in each case for a legal and sufficient consideration, passed into the possession of van der Donck, in 1645 ; and by him it

was erected into a Colonic, with the title of COLON DONCK—Donck's Colony—of which he became the legal Patroon.

There is no evidence, as far as we have seen, that Donck was personally a settler in the Colony, in its earlier days—indeed, it is evident that he retained his office of Schout-fiscaal of Rensselaerswyck until the death of the first Patroon, Kilian van Rensselaer, in 1646 ; (*O'Callaghan*, i. 345.) that he was a resident on his bouwerie, on Castle Island, near Beverswyck, when, on the seventeenth of January, 1646, his house was burned ; (*van Curler's Account of his Quarrel with van der Donck*,) and that on the twentieth of February, 1646, he removed from van Curler's house, where he had found shelter, to the Fort. (*Ibid.*)

We have not been successful in our search for copies of the original grant of the territory in question, by Director Kieft, to van der Donck—indeed it is said by our learned friend, Doctor E. B. O'Callaghan, that it is not on the records;—nor have we been able to find any evidence of the purchase of the territory, by the latter, from the Indians—that by which the Patroon confirmed his right thereto, and secured peace to his Colonic beyond the averment of the fact, in van der Donck's Petition, of the twenty-sixth of May, 1653, which will be given in another article, and the acknowledgment of that fact, made by the Indians some years subsequent, a copy of which has been kindly furnished for this article, by Dr. E. B. O'Callaghan.

[From the Book of Deeds, III. 42.]

Sept. 21, 1666.

THE INDIANS ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO HAUE RECEIVED SATISFACTION FOR YE YOUNCKERS LAND.

This day came Hugh O Neale & Mary his wife, (who in right of her former husband laid claime to a certaine parcell of Land upon the Maine not farre from Westchester, comonly called ye Younckers Land,) who brought severall Indians before ye Governor to acknowledg the purchase of ye said Lands by Vander Dunck comonly called ye Youneker.

The said Indians declared ye Bounds of ye said Land to be from a place called by them Macackesin at ye North, so to run to Neperan, & to ye Kill Soroquapp then to Muskota, & Pappereneman to ye South & erosse ye Countrey to ye Eastward by Bronckx his Ryver & Land.

The Indian Proprietors name who was cheife of them is Tuckareek living at ye Nevisans who acknowledged ye purchase as before described, & that he had received satisfaction for it.

Claes ye Indian hauing interest in a part Acknowledged to haue sould it & received satisfaction of Van der Dunck.

All ye rest of ye Indians present being 7 or 8 acknowledg to haue received full satisfaction.

VII.

In order that our readers may understand the true character of the Patroons of New Netherland and the authority with which they were vested, by virtue of their contract, we continue in our columns, from the *Holland Documents*, translated by Doctor O'Callaghan, the following copy of "Freedoms and Exemptions granted by the Board of the XIX. of the incorporated West India Company, to all those who will plant Colonies in New Netherland;" agreed to on the seventh of June, 1629; and subsequently ratified by the States General.

I. Such members of the said Company as may be inclined to settle a Colonie in New Netherland, shall be permitted to send in the ships of this Company going thither, three or four persons to inspect the situation of the country, provided that they, with the officers and ship's company, swear to the articles, so far as they relate to them, and pay for provisions and for passage, going and coming, six stivers per diem; and such as desire to eat in the cabin, twelve stivers, and to be subordinate and give assistance like others, in cases offensive and defensive; and if any ships be taken from the enemy, they shall receive, pro rata, their proportions with the ship's company, each according to his quality; that is to say, the colonists eating out of the cabin shall be rated with the sailors, and those who eat in the cabin with those of the Company's servants who eat at table and receive the lowest wages.

II. Though, in this respect, shall be preferred such persons as have first appeared and desired the same from the Company.

III. All such shall be acknowledged Patroons of New Netherland who shall, within the space of four years next after they have given notice to any of the Chambers of the Company here, or to the Commander or Council there, undertake to plant a Colonie there of fifty souls, upwards of fifteen years old ; one fourth part within one year, and within three years after the sending of the first, making together four years, the remainder, to the full number of fifty persons, to be shipped from hence, on pain, in case of wilful neglect, of being deprived of the privileges obtained ; but it is to be observed that the Company reserve the Island of the Manhattes to themselves.

IV. They shall, from the time they make known the situation of the places where they propose to settle Colonies, have the preference to all others of the absolute property of such lands as they have there chosen ; but in case the situation should not afterwards please them, or that they should have been mistaken as to the quality of the land, they may, after remonstrating concerning the same to the Commander and Council there, be at liberty to choose another place.

V. The Patroons, by virtue of their power, shall and may be permitted, at such places as they shall settle their Colonies, to extend their limits four leagues * along the shore, that is, on one side of a navigable river, or two leagues † on each side of a river, and so far into the country as the situation of the occupiers will permit ; provided and conditioned that the Company keep

* Equal to sixteen English miles.

† Or eight English miles.

to themselves the lands lying and remaining between the limits of Colonies, to dispose thereof, when and at such time as they shall think proper, in such manner that no person shall be allowed to come within seven or eight leagues * of them without their consent, unless the situation of the land thereabout be such, that the Commander and Council, for good reasons, should order otherwise ; always observing that the first occupiers are not to be prejudiced in the right they have obtained, other than, unless the service of the Company should require it, for the building of fortifications, or something of that sort ; the command of each bay, river, or island, of the first-settled Colonie, remaining, moreover, under the supreme jurisdiction of their High Mightinesses the States General, and the Company : but that on the next Colonies being settled on the same river or island, they may, in conjunction with the first, appoint one or more Deputies, in order to consider what may be necessary for the prosperity of the Colonies on the said river and island.

VI. They shall forever possess and enjoy all the lands lying within the aforesaid limits, together with the fruits, rights, minerals, rivers and fountains thereof ; as also the chief command and lower jurisdictions, fishing, fowling, and grinding, to the exclusion of all others, to be holden from the Company as a perpetual inheritance, without it ever devolving again to the Company, and in case it should devolve, to be redeemed and repossessed with twenty guilders per Colonie, to be paid to this Company, at the Chamber here on to their Commander there, within a year and six weeks after the same occurs, each at the Chamber where he originally sailed from ; and further, no person or persons what-

* Thirty-two English miles.

soever shall be privileged to fish and hunt but the Patroons and such as they shall permit. And in case any one should in time prosper so much as to found one or more cities, he shall have power and authority to establish officers and magistrates there, and to make use of the title of his Colonie, according to his pleasure and to the quality of of the persons.

VII. There shall likewise be granted to all Patroons who shall desire the same, *venia testandi*, or liberty to dispose of their aforesaid heritage, by testament.

VIII. The Patroons may, if they think proper, make use of all lands, rivers, and woods, lying contiguous to them, for and during so long a time as this Company shall grant them to other Patroons or private persons.

IX. Those who shall send persons over to settle Colonies, shall furnish them with proper instructions, in order that they may be ruled and governed conformably to the rule of government made, or to be made, by the Board of the Nineteen, as well in the political as the judicial government; which they shall be obliged first to lay before the Directors of the respective Chambers.

X. The Patroons and Colonists shall be privileged to send their people and effects thither, in ships belonging to the Company, provided they take the oath, and pay to the Company for bringing over the people as mentioned in the first article; and for freight of the goods five per cent. ready money, to be reckoned on the prime cost of the goods here; in which is, however, not to be included such cattle and other implements as are necessary for the cultivation and improvement of the lands, which the Company are to carry over without any reward, if there is room in their ships. But the Patroons shall, at their own expense, provide and make

places for them, together with every thing necessary for the support of the cattle.

XI. In case it should not suit the Company to send any ships, or there should be no room in those sailing thither, then the said Patroons, after having communicated their intentions, and after having obtained consent from the Company in writing, may send their own ships or vessels thither: provided, that in going or coming they go not out of their ordinary course; giving security to the Company for the same, and taking on board an assistant, to be victualled by the Patroons, and paid his monthly wages by the Company; on pain, for doing the contrary, of forfeiting all the right and property they have obtained to the Colonie.

XII. Inasmuch as it is intended to people the Island of the Manhattes first, all fruits and wares that are produced on the lands situate on the North River, and lying thereabout, shall, for the present, be brought there before being sent elsewhere: excepting such as are from their nature unnecessary there, or such as cannot, without great loss to the owner thereof, be brought there; in which case the owners thereof shall be obliged to give timely notice in writing of the difficulty attending the same to the Company here, or to the Commander and Council there, that the same may be remedied as the necessity thereof shall be found to require.

XIII. All the Patroons of Colonies in New Netherland, and of Colonies on the Island of Manhattes, shall be at liberty to sail and traffic all along the coast, from Florida to Terra Neuf, provided that they do again return with all such goods as they shall get in trade to the Island of Manhattes, and pay five per cent. duty to the Company, in order, if possible, that after the necessary inventory of the goods shipped be taken, the same may be sent hither. And if it

should so happen that they could not return, by contrary streams or otherwise, they shall, in such case, not be permitted to bring such goods to any other place but to these dominions, in order that under the inspection of the Directors of the place where they may arrive, they may be unladen, an inventory thereof made, and the aforesaid duty of five per cent. paid to the Company here, on pain, if they do the contrary, of the forfeiture of their goods so trafficked for, or the real value thereof.

XIV. In case the ships of the Patroons, in going to, or coming from, or sailing on the coast from Florida to Terra Neuf, and no further, without our grant, should overpower any prizes of the enemy, they shall be obliged to bring, or cause to be brought, such prize to the Chamber of the place from whence they sailed out, in order to be rewarded by it; the Company shall keep the one third part thereof, and the remaining two thirds shall belong to them, in consideration of the cost and risk they have been at, all according to the orders of the Company.

XV. It shall be also free for the aforesaid Patroons to traffic and trade all along the coast of New Netherland and places circumjacent, with such goods as are consumed there, and receive in return for them, all sorts of merchandize that may be had there, except beavers, otters, minks, and all sorts of peltry, which trade the Company reserve to themselves. But the same shall be permitted at such places where the Company have no factories, conditioned that such traders shall be obliged to bring all the peltry they can procure to the Island of Manhattes in case it may be, at any rate, practicable, and there deliver to the Director, to be by him shipped hither with the ships and goods; or, if they should come here, without going there, then to give notice thereof to the Company, that a

proper account thereof may be taken, in order that they may pay to the Company one guilder for each merchantable beaver and otter skin; the property, risk, and all other charges, remaining on account of the Patroons, or owners.

XVI. All coarse wares that the Colonists of the Patroons there shall consume, such as pitch, tar, weed-ashes, wood, grain, fish, salt, hearth-stone, and such like things, shall be conveyed in the Company's ships, at the rate of eighteen guilders (\$7 20) per last; four thousand weight to be accounted a last, and the Company's ship's crew shall be obliged to wheel and bring the salt on board, whereof ten lasts make a hundred. And in case of the want of ships, or room in the ships, they may order it over at their own cost, in ships of their own, and enjoy in these dominions such liberties and benefits as the Company have granted; but in either case, they shall be obliged to pay, over and above the duty of five per cent., eighteen guilders for each hundred of salt that is carried over in the Company's ships.

XVII. For all wares which are not mentioned in the foregoing article, and which are not carried by the last, there shall be paid one dollar for each hundred pounds weight; and for wines, brandies, verjuice, and vinegar, there shall be paid eighteen guilders per cask.

XVIII. The Company promises the Colonists of the Patroons, that they shall be free from customs, taxes, excise, imposts, or any other contributions, for the space of ten years; and after the expiration of the said ten years, at the highest, such customs as the goods pay here for the present.

XIX. They will not take from the service of the Patroons any of their Colonists, either man or woman, son or daughter, man-servant or maid-servant; and though any of these should desire

the same, they will not receive them, much less permit them to leave their Patroons, and enter into the service of another, unless on consent obtained from their Patroons in writing; and this for and during so many years as they are bound to their Patroons; after the expiration whereof, it shall be in the power of the Patroons to send hither all such Colonists as will not continue in their service, who until then shall not enjoy their liberty. And any Colonist who shall leave the service of his Patroon, and enter into the service of another, or shall, contrary to his contract, leave his service; we promise to do everything in our power to apprehend and deliver the same into the hands of his Patroon, or attorney, that he may be proceeded against, according to the customs of this country, as occasion may require.

XX. From all judgments given by the courts of the Patroons for upwards of fifty guilders (\$20,) there may be an appeal to the Company's Commander and Council in New Netherland.

XXI. In regard to such private persons as on their own account, or others in the service of their masters here, (not enjoying the same privileges as the Patroons,) shall be inclined to go thither and settle; they shall, with the approbation of the Director and Council there, be at liberty to take up, and take possession of as much land as they shall be able properly to improve, and shall enjoy the same in full property either for themselves or masters.

XXII. They shall have free liberty of hunting and fowling, as well by water as by land, generally, and in public and private woods and rivers, about their Colonies, according to the orders of the Director and Council.

XXIII. Whosoever, whether Colonists of Patroons for their Patroons, or free persons for themselves, or others for their masters,

shall discover any shores, bays, or other fit places for erecting fisheries, or the making of salt ponds, they may take possession thereof, and begin to work on them as their own absolute property, to the exclusion of all others. And it is consented to that the Patroons of Colonists may send ships along the coast of New Netherland, on the cod fishery, and with the fish they catch, to trade to Italy, or other neutral countries, paying in such cases to the Company a duty of six guilders (\$2 40) per last; and if they should come with their lading hither, they shall be at liberty to proceed to Italy, though they shall not, under pretext of this consent, or leave from the Company, carry any goods there, on pain of arbitrary punishment; and it remaining in the breast of the Company to put a supercargo on board each ship, as in the eleventh article.

XXIV. In case any of the Colonists should, by his industry and diligence, discover any minerals, precious stones, crystals, marbles, or such like, or any pearl fishery, the same shall be and remain the property of the Patroon or Patroons of such Colonie; giving and ordering the discoverer such premium as the Patroon shall beforehand have stipulated with such Colonist by contract. And the Patroons shall be exempt from the payment of duty to the Company for the term of eight years, and pay only for freight, to bring them over, two per cent., and after the expiration of the aforesaid eight years, for duty and freight, the one eighth part of what the same may be worth.

XXV. The Company will take all the Colonists, as well free as those that are in service, under their protection, and them defend against all foreign and domestic wars and powers, with the forces they have there, as much as lies in their power.

XXVI. Whosoever shall settle any Colonie out of the limits of the Manhattes Island, shall be

obliged to satisfy the Indians for the land they shall settle upon, and they may extend or enlarge the limits of their Colonies if they settle a proportionate number of Colonists thereon.

XXVII. The Patroons and Colonists shall in particular, and in the speediest manner, endeavor to find out ways and means whereby they may support a Minister and Schoolmaster, that thus the service of God and zeal for religion may not grow cool, and be neglected among them ; and that they shall, for the first, procure a Comforter of the sick, there.

XXVIII. The Colonies that shall happen to lie on the respective rivers or islands (that is to say, each river or island for itself) shall be at liberty to appoint a Deputy, who shall give information to the Commander and Council of that Western quarter, of all things relating to his Colonie, and further matters relating thereto, of which Deputies there shall be one altered, or changed, in every two years ; and all Colonies shall be obliged, at least once in every twelve months, to make exact report of their condition and of the lands thereabout, to the Commander and Council there, in order to be transmitted hither.

XXIX. The Colonists shall not be permitted to make any woollen, linen, or cotton cloth, nor weave any other stuffs there, on pain of being banished, and as perjurers, to be arbitrarily punished.

XXX. The Company will use their endeavors to supply the Colonists with as many Blacks as they conveniently can, on the conditions hereafter to be made ; in such manner, however, that they shall not be bound to do it for a longer time than they shall think proper.

XXXI. The Company promise to finish the fort on the Island of the Manhattes, and to put it in a posture of defence without delay.

VIII.

THE SETTLEMENT OF THE COLONY.

In our last article on this subject, we introduced to our readers what may be considered the great charter of the political rights of the Colonists of New Netherland ; an instrument which, more than any other, shows the system of government under which the earliest settlers of this town and village, lived and labored.

As the distinguished historian of New Netherland has very truly remarked,* this very important document which “transplanted to the free soil of America the feudal tenure and feudal burdens of continental Europe, is remarkable principally as a characteristic of the era in which it was produced. It bears all the marks of the social system which prevailed at the time, not only among the Dutch, but among the other nations which had adopted the civil law. The ‘Colonies’ were but transcripts of the ‘lordships’ and ‘seigneuries’ so common at this period, and which the French were establishing contemporaneously, in their possessions north of New Netherland,† where most of the feudal

* O’Callaghan’s History of New Netherland, i, 120.

† The following are the dates of some of the earliest Patents for Seigneuries in Canada. St. Joseph, 1626 ; Notre dame des Anges, 1626 ; Riviere du Loup, 1633 ;

" appendages of high and low jurisdiction, muta-
 " tion fines, pre-emption rights, exclusive monop-
 " lies of mines, minerals, water-courses, hunting,
 " fishing, fowling, and grinding, which we find
 " enumerated in the charter to Patroons, form part
 " of the civil law of the country at the present
 " day. But however favorable the feudal tenure
 " may be to a young country, and to agriculturists
 " of small capital, whose interest it might be to
 " husband their scanty means, in order the quicker
 " and more effectually to enable them to reclaim
 " their wild land, it cannot be denied that the
 " charter before us had many faults and many
 " imperfections. ' While it secured the right of
 " ' the Indian to the soil,' says Moulton, ' and
 " ' enjoined schools and churches, it scattered the
 " ' seed of servitude, slavery, and aristocracy.
 " ' While it gave to freemen as much land as they
 " ' could cultivate, and exempted Colonists from
 " ' taxation for ten years, it fettered agriculture
 " ' by restricting commerce and prohibiting manu-
 " ' factures.' " *

As we have already stated, in our sketch of

Lanzon, 1636 ; Beauport, 1635. These and numbers of
 others may be found (some as late as 1788) in Bou-
 chette's *Topog. of Can.*, App. ii. et. seq. Forty years
 after the establishment of the privileged order of
 Patroons in New Netherland, the proprietors of Caro-
 lina attempted to introduce a privileged order of feudal
 lords in that Province, under the title of "Langraves"
 add "Caciques," the former to be endowed with 16,000,
 and the latter with 4,000 acres of land each. But this
 memorable monument of Locke's folly perished soon
 after birth.

* History of New York, 387, 388.

his life, Patroon Van der Donck visited Fatherland, in 1649, as one of the Commissioners of the Commonwealth of New Netherland ; and while there he appears to have been also engaged in an enterprise for conveying emigrants to America, probably for the settlement of his Colonie at Colon Donck, now the town of Yonkers.

In one of these enterprises, at least, it does not appear that he was very successful ; although he appears to have completely fulfilled his engagement with the Company, entered into, in conformity with the Articles of "Freedoms and "Exemptions," already published in our columns, when he received from it the grant for his Colonie at this place ; and thereby perfected his title to the fee of the property.

As a curious memento of the earlier days of the town—if not of its successful settlement, as a Colonie of the Dutch—we present a copy of the contract to convey his emigrants to America, which the Patroon entered into with the West India Company, at Amsterdam ; for which we are indebted to *The New York Colonial Documents*, edited by Dr. O'Callaghan.

DRAFT OF A CONTRACT TO CONVEY EMIGRANTS TO
NEW NETHERLAND.

[From the Minutes in the Royal Archives at the Hague ; File, *West Indie*.]

This day, the 19th of March, 1650, the Committee of the Amsterdam Chamber of the West India Company on the one part, and Adriaen van der Donck, Jacob van Couwenhoven and

Jan Evertsen Bout, on the other part, have mutually agreed and concluded, in the presence of their High Mightinesses' Deputies :

That the aforesaid Van der Donck, Couwenhoven and Bout will undertake, as they do hereby contract to charter a suitable fly-boat of 200 *lasts* and therein to go to sea before the first of June next, and convey to New Netherland the number of 200 passengers, of which 100 are to be farmers and farm servants, and the remaining 100 such as the Amsterdam Chamber is accustomed to send over, conversant with agriculture, and to furnish them with necessary supplies for the voyage on the condition that the aforesaid Committee of the Company shall allow the New Netherland contractors here to have, or to draw from the duties which, after this date, will be paid to the Company on freights for New Netherland the sum of four thousand guilders cash, to pay present expenses ; the subject of duty, redress, and New Netherland freedoms remaining for the more full disposition of their High Mightinesses and the Directors of the West India Company. The Committee of the Company shall immediately make an assignment of such funds, together with seven thousand guilders additional, to be drawn in New Netherland from the peltry revenue, amounting, in all, to the sum of eleven thousand guilders, the further sums derived from board and passage, if any there be, remaining for the profit and behoof of them the New Netherland contractors, without they, or the aforesaid hundred gratuitously conveyed persons, demanding anything further from the Company, or taxing them not even one stiver beyond the said eleven thousand guilders. The contractors shall, also, bind the aforementioned two hundred conveyed persons to remain there at least three years, unless some of them, for pregnant reasons, may obtain, from the Council in New Netherland,

permission to return earlier, and not allow them to depart without first paying double the amount of the passage, and in case it come to pass that the aforesaid two hundred persons be not put on ship-board within the aforesaid time, so as to be able to go to sea, the aforesaid Van der Donck, Couwenhoven and Boudt, shall forfeit to the Company, from their private property, in addition to the restitution of the 4000 guilders received for present expenses, the sum of two thousand guilders at once, without the Company being further bound for the aforesaid passage or board money. And the West India Company shall be privileged, whenever said 200 persons are brought on board, to cause to be inspected the ship and the people, if these be qualified as aforesaid. And the New Netherland contractors declare that they do not intend to derive any profit beyond the return of cost which must be disbursed to obtain the passengers; they also bind themselves, the costs being deducted, to leave any overplus there may be, to be applied next year to the like conveyance of farmers or farm servants; whereunto they each oblige themselves *in solidum* and under renunciation of division, and also subject their goods to all courts and judges. Thus agreed and concluded, and signed by the Contractors, or both sides, at the Hague, on the day or year aforesaid.

I X .

It will be remembered by our readers that the tenor of the Patents which were granted to the Patroons in New Netherland did not enable them to bequeath those lands, without express

permission had been previously obtained ; and the Seventh Article of the "Freedoms and "Exemptions " provided for such concession to those who should desire the same.

It may readily be supposed that one who was so well versed in the law, as Adriaen van der Donck, would not neglect so important a duty ; and it appears that he embraced the opportunity which was afforded by his visit to Fatherland, as the representative of the Commonalty of New Netherland, to secure the right of disposing, by will, of the Colonie of Colen Donck, as this town was then called.

Accordingly, on the twenty-sixth of April, 1652, agreeably to the terms of the "Freedoms "and Exemptions," the following Patent was issued to him ; and our readers will find in it the third link of the chain of title to their lands, lying within this township—the acknowledgment of sale by the Indian proprietors and the grant by the Government to Van der Donck alone preceding it :

PATENT EMPOWERING ADRIAEN VAN DER DONCK TO
DISPOSE OF HIS COLONIE BY WILL.

[From the *Acte-Boek* of the States General, in the
Royal Archives at the Hague.]

Patent granted to Adriaen van der Donck,
Patroon of the Colonie Colendonck, situate
in New Netherland, empowering him to dis-
pose by will of said Fief of Colendonck.

The States General of the United Netherlands.

To all who shall see these presents or hear them read, Greeting :

BE IT KNOWN : That We, on the humble supplication of Adriaen van der Donck of Breda, Patroon of the Colonie Nepperhaem, by him called Colendonck, situate in New Netherland, within the limits of the General Incorporated West India Company of this country, and having carefully looked into the fifth article of the Freedoms granted by the Assembly of the nineteen of said Company, to all those who shall plant Colonies in New Netherland aforesaid, have by these our letters unto him, the Petitioner, sovereignly given, granted, allowed and conferred, do give, grant, consent, and confer power to order, testate and dispose of his aforesaid Fief, called Colendonck, either by form of testament and last will, codicil before a notary and witnesses, superintendents and vassals where said property lies, or otherwise at his pleasure, for the profit of his children, if any he have, friends and kindred or others, strangers, according as it shall please and seem good to him, the aforesaid, his manorial estate to his children or other persons to give, transport or leave in whole or in part, there upon to assign rents hereditary, or for life, or even to give any one the usufruct thereof, at his discretion or good pleasure. We have, moreover, given, and do hereby give, the Petitioner permission, power, and leave, his aforesaid testament and last will, that he shall thus make or hath previously made, to alter, enlarge, diminish, and revoke, by codicil or other arrangement of last will, whenever and at all times that he shall please ; which testament, gift, and order thus made or to be made by the Petitioner, We now, for then, have confirmed and ratified, confirm and ratify, by this Our letter, and will that it be

maintained and perfected, and be valid and of good effect forever ; and that whomsoever the aforesaid Petitioner hath given the said manor or portion thereof, or assigned any rents or usufruct thereon to, shall use the same according to the laws, statutes, and customs of the place in which they are situate, in the same manner and in all forms and ways, as if the said gifts or grants were made and executed before the General Company or other their agents, whom it may concern. *Provided*, that whomsoever the above mentioned Petitioner shall give, order, or make over the aforesaid Fief to, whether man or woman, shall be bound. within a year and six weeks after the death of the aforesaid Petitioner, or his or her entrance into possession of the above described Fief, to do homage unto Us and no one else, and pay the rights thereunto appertaining and belonging, all without fraud, guile, or craft. Wherefore We do request and order those of the aforementioned General Incorporated West India Company to instruct and command the Governors or Commanders and Council, who now are or shall hereafter be in New Netherland, and moreover all others whom it in anywise may concern, conjointly and each in particular, as it shall behoove him, that they maintain and perfect the testament, order and last will of the above named Petitioner, as he shall have made or yet shall make it, and as it now by Us is ratified and confirmed as aforesaid ; and whomsoever he by his testament and last will hath given and granted the aforesaid Fief, or shall have made and assigned, or yet may make, give, or assign any rents or usufructs to, the same to cause and permit the quiet and peaceable use and enjoyment thereof, without causing or allowing him at any time to experience any let, hindrance, or molestation herein to the contrary.

Given under Our seal, paraph, and the signature of our Greffier in the Hague, the six and twentieth day of April, XVIc. and fifty and two.

X.

The absence of van der Donck from the Colonie, on the service of the Commonalty, to which reference has been made, probably led to neglect on the part of his agents in New Netherland ; and to the encroachments on his property, of those who lived in this vicinity.

Be this as it may, van der Donck considered it necessary to protect his title to certain meadows at Colendonck, against the interference of those "grasping people," squatters, who, in his absence from the country, had encroached on his property and interfered with his plans ; and, on the twenty-sixth of May, 1653, the Patroon, who was then in Holland, addressed the following Petition to the Directors of the Company, praying for the protection referred to.*

PETITION OF ADRIAEN VAN DER DONCK TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE WEST INDIA COMPANY, CHAMBER AT AMSTERDAM.

Adriaen van der Donck, an inhabitant of New Netherland, respectfully represents that in

* This paper is taken from the New York Colonial Manuscripts, (at Albany,) XI, 81 ; and we are indebted to Dr. E. B. O'Callaghan, for this translation of it.

the year 1645, the Director and Council of New Netherland gave and granted unto him the petitioner the advantages of the Saw Kill with the lands thereabouts, to erect saw and grist mills, plantations, boweries, and such like there, according to his means and ability. This was done principally in regard and out of consideration, that the petitioner in preparing and concluding the peace between Director Kieft on the one side and the Indians on the other, had been absent from his house at his own expense over nine weeks, in the best and most necessary season of the year, and had, without speaking boastingly, contributed as much, or more, effectual service therein as, or than any other person, so that at length peace was properly concluded ; on which occasion, Director Kieft not being well in funds, the petitioner advanced the Wampum which was given as a present to confirm the Treaty which, God be praised, still continues.

The petitioner, settling down there, in the beginning of the year 1646, after this grant of lands, erected a saw mill, bouwery, and plantation there, being inclined to continue according to his means ; and likewise purchased the lands, with the knowledge and in the presence of the Director and Council of New Netherland, from the proprietors, in as much as the Indians claimed them and said they were theirs ; but the petitioner previously finding and remonstrating that right by the Saw Kill were common valleys or haylands, he was empowered by license from Director Kieft, to purchase from the Indians the adjacent valleys of use and advantage to him.

Through which consideration the petitioner, with the knowledge and in the presence of the Director and Council, as already stated, as he had no nearer valleys to include in his purchase, selected a place containing about 30 @ 40 morgens with a suitable valley thereabout, bordering

on the kill in the rear of the Island of Manhattan, at *Paprinneemin*, called by our people *Speyt den duyvel*, the petitioner having always intended to go himself and reside there so soon as he had brought his affairs at the Saw Kill in order, and is still now resolved, so soon as he shall have arrived in that country, to go and dwell on the same spot, or constantly to make preparations thereunto by building and cultivating there, both because his mind and inclination lead him to that place and principally because he is desirous of securing said valleys, without which all the trouble, expense and great labor of himself and family at the Saw Kill and vicinity would, for want of hay, be idle, unprofitable, and in vain.

And as the petitioner understands, and is informed, from New Netherland that a great many grasping people, gone over in the year 1652, have endeavored to encroach on said plan in an underhand manner, he most respectfully requests this Board to be pleased so to dispose that the petitioner may not be prevented or prejudiced by any person in regard to the aforesaid convenient Flatt and necessary valleys for a certain peremptory time. Which doing, &c.

X I .

We have related in other papers of this series, the story of the discovery, purchase, and original settlement of this town and village: it now becomes our unpleasant duty to record the earliest known outbreak of the Indians which affected the plantations at Colendonck.

During the absence from New Netherland of Director-general Stuyvesant, at an early hour of the morning of the fifteenth of September, 1655, a large party of Indians, by some estimated at nineteen hundred, of whom the greater number were armed, appeared suddenly before the infant city of New Amsterdam. [New York.]

They do not appear to have intended to commit any outrage, as they only demanded the return of some "Indians from the North;" but, as may be readily supposed, the burgers were filled with the greatest consternation. A consultation was held between the Council, the magistrates, and the principal inhabitants of the town, on the one side, and the chief men among the Indians, on the other; and the latter agreed to withdraw to Governor's Island, at sundown.

It appears, however, that the arrangement was not fulfilled; and, as the weakness of the town became more and more apparent, the savages became more and more determined to avenge the grievances which they had so long endured in silence. Captain Cornelis Leendertsen and Hendrick Van Dyck, late fiscal of the Colony, both of whom appear to have been personally obnoxious to the Indians, were attacked; and the latter became bolder and more insolent in their demands as the evening approached.

At length "the hue and cry of murder rang through the streets" of the city; and the garrison and the burger corps moved from the fort, attacked the invaders, and with the loss of three

savages and five of the assailants, the Indians were driven from the city, and obliged to retire to the west side of the river.

This act sealed the fate of the bouweries and plantations which surrounded the city and were unprotected. "In a moment a house at Hoboken was on fire, and the whole of Pavonia was wrapt in flames." With the exception of Michel Jansen's family, every man and all the cattle were slain, while the greater part of the women and children were carried into captivity. The settlements on Staten Island were next visited and desolated; and the greatest consternation prevailed throughout the Colony. The settlers throughout the country, except a few on Long Island, abandoned their homes, "took wing," and sought safety at New Amsterdam or other places of security.

In this general alarm, the colonists of Colondonck fully participated; and when it shall be remembered that among the assailants were the Indians from Ahasimus, Aackinkeshackey and Taappan, and that these appeared to wreck their vengeance *only on the Dutch*,—giving notice to the *English* settlers in order that by proper precautions, *they* might not become involved in the destruction which awaited their neighbors*—it will be seen that they had good reason for securing their safety in flight.

We are told by the Director-general himself,

* O'Callaghan's New Netherland, ii. 292-

that "the various plantations and bouweries" in this Colonie were abandoned, with "many others, "all of which are situated here" [*New Amsterdam*] "and bordering on our Island, only divided by a small creek, which in some places by "low water is passable;"† but there is a little doubt that the Peace which was soon after concluded, restored the confidence of the fugitives, and led them back to their houses in Colon-donck.‡

XII.

THE PATENT OF 1666.

We have traced the history of this town through the period of its occupation by the Dutch; and another and not less important duty now devolves upon us.

In the summer of 1664, the English, under Colonel Richard Nicolls, seized the Colony of New Netherland; and, among the measures adopted by the conquerer was the promulgation of an order for the confirmation of former grants

† Director-general Stuyvesant.

‡ Those who shall desire to examine the particular history of this outbreak, which relates, directly, so little to the history of Yonkers, and has been so slightly referred to in this sketch, may consult O'Callaghan's *History of New Netherland*, ii, 290—294; Brodhead's *New York*, i; The Remonstrance of Hendrick van der Capellen tho Ryssel, October, 1656; Bancroft's *United States*, ii, 299.

of lands, by new ones from himself—a measure which was probably adopted as much to secure a harvest of fees as for any other and more useful purpose. (*Colonial Documents*, iii, 143.)

Van der Donck appears to have died in 1655 ; and his widow, Mary Doughty, had become the wife of Hugh O'Neale, formerly of Newtown, L.I. It appears, also, that she claimed to be the proprietor of the Colonie of Colendonck—probably by virtue of a will, which her former husband, the Patroon of the Colonie, had been allowed to make, at his own request ; (*Article IX of this series*—GAZETTE, Sept. 9 ;) and that, on the twenty-first of September, 1666, she appeared before the Governor ; proved the purchase of the territory, by Adriaen van der Donck, from the Indians, by the testimony of those who had sold it to him ; (*Article VI. of this series*—GAZETTE; July 22 ;) and applied for the Patent which was necessary, under the new Sovereign, to confirm her title.

On the eighth of October, 1666, the Governor issued a new Patent for the Colonie, in accordance with this application ; and Hugh O'Neale and Mary, his wife, became the recognized Proprietors of Colondonck, or, as it was thenceforth called, Nepperhaem.

PATENT FOR NEPPERHAEM.

RICHARD NICOLLS, Esq., governor under his Royal Highness, ye Duke of York, of all his

territories in America, to all to whom this present writing shall come, sendeth greeting :

WHEREAS there is a certain tract of land within this government, upon the main, bounded to the northwards by a rivulet called by the Indians, Macakassin; so running southward to Nepperhaem, from thence to the kill Shorakkapoch, and then to Paprinimen, which is the southernmost bounds, then to go across the country to the eastward by that which is commonly known by the name of Broncks's his river and land, which said tract hath heretofore been purchased of the Indian proprietors by Adriaen van der Donck, deceased, whose relict, Mary, the wife of Hugh O'Neale, one of the patentees is, and due satisfaction was also given for the same, as hath by some of the said Indians been acknowledged before me: now for a further confirmation unto them, the said Hugh O'Neale and Mary his wife, relict of the aforesaid Adriaen van der Donck, in their possession and enjoyment of the premises,

KNOW YE, that by the virtue of this our commission and authority given unto me by his Royal Highness the Duke of York, I have thought fit to give, ratify, confirm, and grant, and by these presents do give, ratify, confirm, and grant, unto the said Hugh O'Neale and Mary his wife, their heirs and assigns, all the aforementioned tract or parcel of lands called Neperhaem, together with all woods, marshes, meadows, pastures, waters, lakes, creeks, rivulets, fishing, hunting, and fowling, and all other profits, commodities and emoluments to the said tract of land belonging, with their and every of their appurtenances, and of every part and parcel thereof, to have and to hold the said tract of land and premises, with all and singular their appurtenances, unto the said Hugh O'Neale and Mary his wife, their heirs and assigns, to the pro-

per use and behoofe of the said Hugh O'Neale and Mary his wife, their heirs and assigns forever, he, she, or they, or any of them, rendering and paying such acknowledgment, duties, as are or shall be constituted and ordayned by his Royal Highness the Duke of York and his heirs, or such governor or governors as shall from time to time be appointed and set over them within this province. That, if at any time hereafter his Royal Highness, his heirs, successors, or assigns, shall think fit to make use of any timber for shipping, or for erecting or repairing of forts within this government, liberty is reserved for such uses and purposes, to cut any sort of timber upon any unplanted grounds on the said tract of land, to make docks, harbours, wharves, houses, or any other conveniences relating thereunto, and also to make use of any rivers or rivuletts and inlets of water for the purpose aforesaid, as fully and free as if no such patent had been granted.

Given under my hand and seal at Fort James, New York, on the island of Manhattan, the eighth day of October, in the eighteenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord, Charles the Second, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c.. &c., in the year of our Lord God, 1666.

RICHARD NICOLLS.



